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s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Hostasa

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:

Yount

Serial No.: 09/950,033

Group Art Unit: 1746

Filed: 09/10/2001

Examiner: Z. El Arini

For: PROCESS FOR REMOVING A RESINOUS COATING  
FROM FIBROUS PRODUCTS

Attorney Docket No.: 25110A

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.131**

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

- 1) I, John W. Yount, residing at 5101 Stagecoach Road, Oxford NC 27565,  
declare as follows:
- 2) I am a citizen of the United States of America.
- 3) I am an inventor of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the U.S. Patent  
Application identified above and I am informed of the prosecution history of this  
application.
- 4) I understand that claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being  
unpatentable over Mulligan et al (6,454,873) in combination with Yount  
(4,300,955) and Dong (6,251,224).
- 5) I understand that the Mulligan et al patent (6,454,873)), claims priority to a  
provisional application, Serial No. 60/133,597, filed May 11, 1999.
- 6) The invention claimed in the present application was conceived by me prior to

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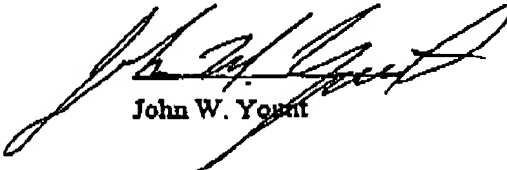
May 11, 1999, and I was diligent from the conception through reduction to practice for the instant invention.

- 7) Prior to May 11, 1999, I had discussed my conceived invention in detail with Messrs. Mulligan and Poy of Regenex in confidence, and I had requested Regenex to perform an experimental trial on my behalf using a process as disclosed in my application.
- 8) Specifically, I had requested Regenex to perform an experimental trial for me, using a Regenex (Milnor) tunnel washing machine, to verify that such a machine would adequately clean resin from glass fibers using my conceived process. In order to facilitate this experimental trial, I disclosed my proposed process in detail and in confidence to Regenex.
- 9) For this experiment, I instructed Regenex to place resin-coated fibers (in mat form and in strand form) into the tunnel washing machine, and use an acid bath solution within the machine to remove the resin from the fibers. I had selected the acid solution as a function of the resin. I requested that the process include heating the acid bath solution to about 200 degrees F, and exposing the resin-coated fibers to the solution for a period of time sufficient to remove the resin. I requested that the acid then be withdrawn from the fibers and the fibers be rinsed with water to remove the solution from the fibers. I requested the fibers then to be removed from the machine and the water extracted from the fibers (extracted optionally before or after removal). I had also requested to recycle the acid and water and remove any chemicals for experimentation for use in other applications. I had also indicated that the cleaned glass would then be experimentally trialed for the production of a wet chop mat.

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Further, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that statements made on information in belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Date:

Dec 5 - 2003  
John W. Yount

STATE OF North Carolina  
COUNTY OF Granville ss

On this 5 day of Dec., 2003 before me, the undersigned Notary Public, appeared John W. Yount to me known to be the person named, who signed the foregoing instrument in my presence and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed.

Ruth Matthews  
Notary Public

My Commission expires

9-11-06